

The RICHMOND PLANET

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RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, SATURDAY, JULY 17, 1909.

PRICE, FIVE CENTS.

WHITE PROPERTY OWNERS OBJECT.

Attempt to Prevent the Erection of the New Bank Building.

A FULL ACCOUNT OF THE TROUBLE-BUILDING INSPECTOR BECK WAITS ON THE STREET COMMITTEE—A COPY OF THE PETITION.

Quite a commotion has been caused by the proposal to erect a banking and office building on the northwest corner of Third and Clay Streets. The following extract from the news columns of the Richmond, Va. Times Dispatch of July 9, 1909 will explain itself.

Plans were filed yesterday in the office of the Building Inspector for a four-story brick bank and office building for the Mechanics' Savings Bank, John Mitchell, Jr., colored, president to be erected at the northwest corner of Third and Clay Streets.

Already a vigorous protest is coming from the neighborhood, all of the householders on this block up to this time being white, the block being one of the best of the residence section of Clay Street, and there is much complaint at the effort to build a colored bank building in that quarter. Property owners along the block are already considering applying for the establishment of a building line which would prevent the erection of the building out to the street, making it conform to the line of present houses. The plans filed call for a four-story brick building to come out flush to the street line, both on Clay and Third Streets, the structure to cost \$20,000.

Last year when negotiations were pending for a sale of the old Quaker Church, west of First Street on Clay to a colored congregation citizens and property owners of the neighborhood held a meeting of protest, and the negotiations were called off for the time.

The colored section back of Clay Street has long been congested and limited by the ravine on the north, and has no other means of growth than to the south. Already colored churches and other buildings have pushed out on Leigh Street until the City School Board has determined to abandon Leigh Street School at First and Leigh, as a white school and use the building for the colored normal school.

The proposed bank building, however, if erected, will be the first building of a business character and the first occupied by colored people on that section of Clay Street.

VISITED BUILDING INSPECTOR.

Seeing this John Mitchell, Jr., President of the Mechanics' Savings Bank went down to the City Hall and visited Building Inspector Beck, who informed him that he had not had time to look over the plans which had been filed in the office by Contractor D. J. Farrar, but that he would as soon as he could conveniently do so, but he was very busy.

NOTIFIED BY THE CLERK.

He stated that he had been notified by the Clerk of the Committee on Streets that an application had been filed before the Committee for the establishment of a building line on the block on which the Mechanics' Savings Bank proposed to build. He had a discretionary time limit of ten days, which in all cases of this kind he deemed it advisable to take and he would for that reason decline to issue the building permit, although he saw no objection to the building and as the law now stands, he felt that he could not refuse to grant it.

WOULD WAIT FOR THE COMMITTEE.

He would wait until after the 16th when the Street Committee would consider the application of two-thirds of the owners of property in that block. Mr. Mitchell went to Mayor D. C. Richardson, City Engineer Charles E. Bolling and Chief of the Fire Department, Mr. W. H. Joynes. He called to see the City Attorney. After satisfactory conferences with all of them, he later called on the Clerk of the Street Committee in order to see the application for a

building line as filed. Here is a copy of it:

TO THE HONORABLE COMMITTEE ON STREETS OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

The undersigned, owners of more than two-thirds of the property abutting on the north side of Clay Street between Second Street, and Third Street, the exact location and extent of which property will fully appear on the plan on file in the City Engineer's Office, a blue print copy of which is hereto attached, hereby request you, in pursuance of an ordinance approved December 7, 1908, entitled "An ordinance to require the Committee on Streets to establish a building line on such squares of the City on which the owners of two-thirds of the property abutting thereon shall request the establishment of the same and to prohibit the granting of a permit by the Building Inspector for the erection of any building, nearer to the street line than the line as established," to establish a building line on the north side of Clay Street, between Second Street and Third Street so that the same may not be less than five (5) nor more than thirty (30) feet from street line, and certify the fact of the establishment of the said line to the Building Inspector of the City of Richmond as required by said ordinance.

Respectfully,
ANNA C. REDFORD,
A. J. WARREN,
E. K. TURNER,
MRS. E. M. REDFORD,
A. G. FRANKLIN.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee on Streets of the City of Richmond that in accordance with an ordinance approved by the Mayor December 7, 1908, entitled, an ordinance "to authorize and require the Committee on Streets to establish a building line, etc. etc." and in accordance with the petition of the owners of more than two thirds of the property fronting on the north line of Clay Street, between Second and Third Street, to have a building line established on said block the Committee on Streets do hereby establish a building line on said north side of Clay Street, said building line so established to be 15 feet and 9 inches back from the present correct street line. The Clerk of the Committee on Streets is hereby directed in accordance with said ordinance to notify the Building Inspector of this action of the Committee on Streets.

COULDN'T DO IT.

It will be seen then that as the Mechanics' Bank owns a lot 31 feet by 100 feet and the building line call for 15 feet, 6 inches that this would make it impossible for the Contractor of the Bank to erect a structure 97 feet long thereon. Three out of the five of the applicants had either directly or indirectly endeavored to sell their property at an unusual high price to the Mechanics' Savings Bank.

WANTED TEN DAYS.

Mr. Mitchell was informed that if the Building Inspector declined to grant the permit an appeal could be taken to the Board of Public Safety, but such an appeal could not be taken until after the Building Inspector had declined to issue the permit and he would not decline to issue it until the expiration of his ten days of discretionary power had expired and then the Committee on Streets would be expected to act up on the petition of the property owners and pass the same, when he would decline to issue it because it provided for the erection of a building to the street line.

AN UNCONSTITUTIONAL ORDINANCE.

Across the street, on the northeast corner, the Schaaf property was

up to the street line. The contest then would be in the Street Committee. It was ascertained too that a building line could not be lawfully established where no provisions for one were not contained in the deed. This then was the status of the case and this the proposition presented. Repeated visits to Mr. Beck brought forth the information that he had not examined the plans. Finally on last Tuesday, John Mitchell, Jr. went down to the Building Inspector's office and notified him that he expected to file another supplementary application for a building permit.

WOULD RESPECT THEIR WISHES.

As the white property owners wanted the building line observed and he desired to respect their wishes, he would make application for the erection of the building on Adams and Clay Streets. He owned individually 58 feet of ground there, running back 128 feet. As it was on the north-west corner, no changes barring the street elevation need be made. He could respect the building line and instead of building fifteen feet, he could build thirty feet back and still have plenty of room for the building. The bank would then be across the street from the white Methodist Church and on the site of the St. Paul's Church Home, which Mr. Mitchell purchased about six months ago.

DR. JEFFERSON'S HOSPITAL.

Dr. Jefferson had applied to him for a site for a private sanitarium (Negro Hospital) and had informed him that the present building on 3rd and Clay Streets would answer his purposes. This seemed to have caused lively interest even in the office of the Building Inspector, who was free to say that he could not see any reason for objecting to the erection of a banking building on Third and Clay Streets.

"Plans for Negro Bank Held Up By Inspector.

The plans filed with Building Inspector Beck for a Bank and Office Building at the corner of Third and Clay Streets for the Mechanics' Savings Bank, a Negro institution, of which John Mitchell, Jr. is president will be held up by the Building Inspector pending the action of the Street Committee in establishing a building line on Clay Street, between Second and Third.

The petition of the property owners will be considered by the committee on the 16th of this month. Under an opinion of the City Attorney, the Building Inspector must withhold approval of plans where the building line is in dispute, or has not been established.

All aboard to the Beach with First Baptist Church Sunday School, Tuesday, July 20, 1909.

WANTED—A WET NURSE. Address 200 Fourth Avenue, Chestnut Hill, Phone Madison 2787-L.

\$150.00 Endowment Paid.

Richmond, Va., July 9, 1909. This is to certify that I have received from John Mitchell, Jr., Grand Chancellor of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, Knights of Pythias, N. A. S. A., E. A. A. and A. (150.00) One Hundred and Fifty Dollars in payment of the death claim of Brother George S. Boone, who was a member of Invincible Lodge, No. 65, of Richmond, Va. Signed: R. EMMETT JONES, Administrator.

Witness:
B. P. Vaudervall,
S. S. Baker, D. D. G. C.

Question of Bank Or Sanitarium.

It is probable that the building which was to have been constructed for the Mechanics' Savings Bank, of which John Mitchell, colored editor of the Planet, is president, and which was to occupy the site at the northwest corner of Third and Clay Streets, will not be put up at that point, but that instead, the house, as it now stands, will be converted into a private sanitarium for colored patients, the sanitarium to be conducted by Dr. Jefferson, a negro physician.

When asked as to the correctness of this report Mitchell said: "Yes, I am considering this alternative proposition. The holding up of my plans is according to my idea a mere subterfuge in order to keep us from building the bank at this corner, notwithstanding the fact that the house on the northeast corner of Third and Clay Streets, now occupied by Dr. Hardy, the dentist, is open to the same objection raised against our building—that is fronting right on the street line. If the hospital is placed at this point we will build the bank at the corner of Adams and Clay on the site now occupied by the St. Paul's Church Home. I own this property and it is plenty deep to accommodate the building we want to put up, even if we go back to the building line already established."

The white residents of this section are bitterly opposed to the bank building, and it is likely that their protests will be more strenuous when they hear of the alternative proposition. — Richmond Evening Journal, July 14, 1909.

Nearly Eight Hundred to be Installed.

The officers of the lodges of Knights of Pythias and the courts of Calanthe will be installed at the Ebenezer Baptist Church next Tuesday night at 8:30 o'clock. Grand Chancellor John Mitchell, Jr., assisted by District Deputy Grand Chancellor S. S. Baker and District Deputy Grand Worthy Counselor Anna Taylor will install over seven hundred officers of the courts and lodges. The members of the Order are invited to be present. The Grand Chancellor will also deliver an address on the present outlook.

Rev. H. H. Jones, returned missionary from West Coast of Africa, called on us. He has been attending the Hering Medical College, at Chicago, and he is now on a lecturing tour. He spent four years and two months during his stay there and two months last summer. He is a ready speaker and impresses one as knowing what he is talking about.

Do You Know Him?

Wanted, the present address of Rev. John A. Harris, who at one time resided at Westfield, N. J. He has also lived at Williamsburg, Va. and other places. Any information concerning him will be gladly received by FREDERICK S. TAGGART, Westfield, N. J.

A FINE SESSION.

The North Carolina Inter-Denominational Sunday School and Educational Convention Meets.

Durham, N. C., July 16.—This city was a scene of christian activity this week caused by the Seventh Annual session of the North Carolina Inter-Denominational Sunday School and Educational Convention. (Continued on Fifth Page.)

The Tidewater Sunday School Convention.

MANY DELEGATES PRESENT—HARMONIOUS SESSION.

With about 150 delegates and a great concourse visitors, the Tidewater Sunday School Convention opened in an institute capacity Wednesday evening, July 7, 1909. In the Bute Street Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va., of which Rev. R. H. Bolling, D. D. LL. D., is the honored pastor.

Prof. James S. Lee, principal of the Public Schools of Newport News, Va., and President of the Convention presided. In his opening address he encouraged the opening of the Convention, as being those of self-help, self reliance, and substantial development of the Baptist cause and racial enterprises, he endorsed the work of the Virginia Seminary and College at Lynchburg, which is the only distinctive school fostered by Colored Baptists in the State.

There were many noted divines and Sunday School workers in attendance, among whom we note Drs. R. H. Bolling, L. W. C. Metz, W. A. Taylor, T. H. Shorts, James H. Smith, W. R. Ashburn, Rev. C. C. Scott, C. E. Jones, T. J. Jones, L. D. Lively, J. H. Ashby, J. H. Barnum, J. G. St. Clair Drake, R. H. Green, R. H. Harrison, E. W. Page, Prof. J. S. Lee, A. J. J. Sykes, R. L. Briggs, Messrs. A. N. Lewis, J. H. Randall, J. W. Fitts, R. J. Gould, A. E. Drake, F. L. Douglass, Jno. H. Robinson, J. R. Davenport, Madams J. S. Lee, Lillian Hoffman, B. F. Fox, C. E. Jones, J. J. Jones, Eva B. McLaurin, Misses B. V. Taliaferro, M. B. Randall, Lula Norton, Mrs. S. A. Smith, and a great many more young people prominent in Sunday School and B. Y. P. U. work in the Tidewater District.

The special features of the Institute, was a paper read by Mr. A. N. Lewis, of Matthews, Va. Subject, Our Mission, in which he reiterated the opening address of the President. A duet by Mrs. Mary A. Minkins and Miss Mabel B. Randolph, of Hampton, and a Recitation by Miss Julia Jones, of Newport News. Also an address by Madam D. I. Haden, of Franklin, Va., who has established an Industrial School, she was donated \$10.00 for her work.

Thursday morning found many new arrivals, and promptly at 9 o'clock, Pres. Lee, called the Convention to order in its Ninth Annual session, the welcome address was fittingly delivered by the Scholarly Dr. Bolling, and the response was given by the coming pulpit orator of Virginia, Rev. C. C. Scott. The Annual sermon was preached by Rev. R. H. Green, of Grafton, York, Va. and was highly edifying and logical, showed profound study and great preparation, the remainder of the morning session was given over to reading letters appointing on committees, the welcome address was fittingly delivered by the Scholarly Dr. Bolling, and the response was given by the coming pulpit orator of Virginia, Rev. C. C. Scott. The Annual sermon was preached by Rev. R. H. Green, of Grafton, York, Va. and was highly edifying and logical, showed profound study and great preparation, the remainder of the morning session was given over to reading letters appointing on committees, the welcome address was fittingly delivered by the Scholarly Dr. Bolling, and the response was given by the coming pulpit orator of Virginia, Rev. C. C. Scott.

The Convention raised for Missions \$394.00, and admitted five new Sunday Schools. The banner this year went to Gloucester Co. Special reports were made from the following Committees, Temperance, Home and Foreign Missions, Condolesce, Sunday Schools, Church polity, Christian Education and other questions of vital importance to the church and Sunday School workers.

There were many noted addresses made during the Convention, among which were sermons by Dr. W. A. Taylor, of Newport News and Dr. R. H. Bolling. Dr. Taylor preached an eloquent as well as a soul-stirring effort, which was perhaps the greatest effort during the convention. Dr. Bolling's sermon was up to his usual standard and was enjoyed very much. Others were papers by Miss Sarah Brinkley, Miss Julia Jones, Mrs. L. V. Knight, Mrs. Mary L. Ruff, Miss Sarah Hodges and Mrs. L. E. Hoffman. All were well prepared and showed that the writers had given special study to conditions.

President Lee's annual address, was one that deals with every phase of the Sunday School work, in Virginia, and the Missionary work of

the church. He is thoroughly imbued with the spirit and principles of the Convention over which he presides, and when in the chair, presides with dignity, and impartial fairness to all members alike. The Convention showed its loyalty to him by electing him for the tenth time as its executive officer.

Many distinguished visitors attended the Convention, among whom were Rev. A. A. Graham, Dr. Morse, Jno. H. Grey, Rev. G. C. Taylor, Rev. Summerville, Mr. E. C. Brown, Prof. D. C. Jacoby, Rev. Graham, and Summerville made notable addresses. The First Baptist Sunday School (Bate Street) tended the delegates a delightful social on Friday from 6 till 8 P. M., which was highly enjoyed by all present.

The First Baptist Church, in which the Convention is held is the leading church in the city of Norfolk and is perhaps the most beautiful church edifice within the borders of the state, and perhaps in the United States. It has a perfect church organization and its auxiliaries are in the fore rank of any in the church. Dr. R. H. Bolling, its pastor, is the most distinguished Baptist preacher in the State, being President of the State Convention.

The Convention closed Friday at 12 P. M., having finished one of its most successful sessions.

CHAS. F. McLAURIN,
Official Reporter.

FALLS TWENTY FEET

R. H. Ferguson, Colored, Another Victim at the New High School.

R. H. Ferguson, colored, of 1907 Beverly Street, fell twenty feet from a scaffold at the new High School Building, Ninth and Marshall streets, yesterday morning, and was rendered unconscious. He suffered bruises over his body, and his right ear was nearly torn off.

Dr. Davis, of the city ambulance, was called. He treated the man, sewed on his ear, and then took him home.

It was stated that the fall was due to dizziness.—Times-Dispatch, July 10, 1909.

LOST—AN ALLIGATOR SKIN COIN purse. A liberal reward will be paid for its return to THE PLANET OFFICE, 311 N. Fourth Street.

Y. M. C. A. Notes.

Last Friday evening was a live hour with the members of the work. The social committee gave the men a very pleasant time.

The inmates of the city home enjoyed the meetings last Sunday.

The work in the city jail, last Sunday was a great help to the prisoners.

The papers by the boys last Sunday were good.

The open meeting was conducted by Chairman E. H. Allen. The men took an active part.

On time men Sunday ready for hard work and the other man.

Meeting for boys Sunday 4 P. M. at the Y. M. C. A. Building.

Mr. Bernard L. Allen will address the men Sunday 5:30 P. M. at the Y. M. C. A. building. Tell every man with whom you meet. Live singing. Bring the other man.

The voluntary rally is on a hum. Every man is getting busy. The captains are having special meetings.

Do not stop praying for the Y. M. C. A.

The Fourth of July was enjoyed by the boys and men on the lawn of the Y. M. C. A. The croquet game was played with much interest.

Negro National Business League.

Delegates and visitors to the tenth annual session of this organization to be held in this city August 18-20 who wish the committee on accommodations to provide for their entertainment during the session, will please notify the undersigned, so that assignments may be made before they leave their homes.

WM. H. STEWARD, Sec. of Com., 621 S. Eighth Street, Louisville, Ky.

To Buckroe Beach, Tuesday, July 20, 1909.

Mr. and Mrs. Peyton Seay Celebrate Wedding Anniversary.

On Monday Night, July 12, 1909, there was a scene of much brilliancy in the direction of Ruth's Hall. There were many cheerful faces to join in the celebration of the Sixteenth Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Peyton Seay.

Order of exercises began by reading of Third Epistle of John by Rev. James Holmes, music and singing by Miss Annie V. Taylor of Richmond; prayer offered by Rev. L. J. Morris; address suitable to the occasion was intelligently delivered by Rev. James Holmes of West Wood; Master Willie Holmes rendered a splendid solo; Mr. Matthew Doyle also rendered a beautiful solo.

Among the guests were the mother Mrs. M. Randolph and brother, Mr. Edward Randolph of Richmond, Va.; Mr. Alfred Seay of Amelia Co., Va.; Mrs. I. Dammals of Richmond; Mrs. Peter Thompson and son, Mr. Harry Thompson; Messrs. James Walker and William Dean; Mrs. Thomas Trice and many other prominent citizens of Richmond in the person of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson of 18 E. Leigh Street. Mr. Johnson addressed the couple and audience with a few brief remarks of encouragement. The couple was also presented many handsome and useful presents.

Dragged Back to Gallows.

Nashville, Ga., July 9.—That the hangman's noose is a bunglesome and merciless mode of execution was clearly demonstrated here to-day, when Marshal Lewis, colored, was led back upon the crudely constructed gallows, begging for water and Sheriff Ayers had sprung the trap and the body had dropped six feet.

The second attempt proved unsuccessful in breaking the condemned man's neck, death resulting in fifteen minutes from strangulation.

Lewis shot and killed Clifford Rutherford, assistant postmaster at Lennox, Ga., on April 12. He confessed his guilt. By publishing a sketch of his life he earned sufficient money to pay for the transportation of his body to his home at Oakfield, Ga. He was above the average of his race in intelligence.

The few spectators who witnessed the spectacle were visibly affected by the gruesome scene. The drop of six feet stretched the cotton rope so that the man's feet touched the earth. He was cut down, and with the aid of one man, mounted the scaffold a second time. He talked confidently.

Visitors Here.

President Jas. H. Dudley, of the A. and M. College at Greensboro, N. C., and J. E. Dellinger of the same city were here last Wednesday enroute to the Negro Conference at Hampton. They enjoyed a drive around the city and expressed themselves as well-pleased with all that they saw here.

Mrs. Callie D. Brown has been quite sick, but is improving.

I am going to join The First Church Sunday School outing. Are you?

Mr. Richard Carter is quite ill at his residence. He has been ailing for some time.

Mrs. Thomas H. Wyatt is visiting her relatives in Culpeper county.

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Jackson are now the proud possessors of a horse and buggy.

ANNUAL OUTING!

Come go with us on our Annual Outing! To Buckroe Beach, Tuesday, July 20th, 1909, under auspices of First Baptist Church Sunday School and Board of Ushers.

Refreshments on train in abundance. Special arrangements have been made for the provision of ladies without escorts. Also no pains have been spared to make things pleasant for children without parents.

Special attractions for the day will be Bathing, Crabbing, Foot Races and Boating. A Steam Launch has been secured to take passengers to Sewell's Point, Willoughby Spit and Cape Henry.

Fare, Round trip: Adults, \$1.00. Children under 12 years, 50 Cents. Train leaves C. & O. Station, 16th and Broad Streets at 9 o'clock; returning leaves Buckroe Beach at 8 o'clock Sharp.

W. T. Johnson, Pastor; W. T. White, Supt.; Jas. H. Morton, Sec.; R. T. Hill, Treas.; H. G. Carter, Chairman.